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* * * * * THE LATEST UFO NEWS EVENTS, PREPARED JANUARY 31, 1978 * * * * * * * * * *

CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES ASKED TO CO-OPERATE WITH FRENCH UFO EFFORT -

IUR readers have already been informed of the creation of a French government official study of the UFO phenomenon (G.E.P.A.N.). A two-day meeting was held on December 13-14 in Paris with the scientific advisory board of G.E.P.A.N. during which certain recommendations were decided which will be enacted upon in their 1978 efforts. Though the members of this scientific board wish to remain anonymous, it can be said that they originate from some of the most prestigious French scientific organizations: National Meteorology Administration, Lyon Astronomical Observatory, Social Psychology Lab of Paris University, Geodynamic Research Center, Astrophysical Lab of Paris University, Theoretical Physics Lab of the Polytechnic School, and the Physical Meteorology Lab of Clermont-Ferrand University.

One of their major recommendations was that the Center for UFO Studies be asked to select 5 - 10 cases from the United States to be examined by their group. These cases, prior to being submitted to G.E.P.A.N., will be investigated to the highest level from both the physical and psychological points of view, with the emphasis being on cases which detail as much possible information on the phenomenon itself. The case selections should be of high interest to the UFO community since they would then represent the "creme de la creme" of the state of U.S. UFOlogy. With the withdrawal of the United Nations and N.A.S.A. interest in UFO matters, perhaps the positive results of such a French study will rekindle official interest in this unknown phenomenon.

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR READERS

IUR, the International UFO Reporter, is now well into its second year. It has been well received, especially by those who are already quite familiar with the UFO phenomenon. It has been hailed as an antidote to the generally irresponsible, and at times entirely fictional, UFO stories found on the newsstands. All well and good; but we need your input on how to make it even better. We'd like all of you—to look forward to each issue, as I know some of you certainly do. We even had one woman call long distance when one issue was late stating that her husband would be despondent until he got his next issue!

We'd like many more readers to anticipate the issues that much. So, tell us what might be added (or subtracted) to have you, and keep you, looking forward to each issue. What do you, personally, want to read about?

There are a few things we can't, or shouldn't do. The first thing is that we can't sacrifice accuracy and verification of facts just to make a report more exciting. We won't look the other way and have what investigation has shown to be, with high probability, an IFO (Identified Flying Object) called a UFO just to make the monthly "box score" look better. IUR has filled a definite need in clarifying the matter of IFOs vs. UFOs. The careful investigations of Allan Hendry, who devotes hours daily to tracking down data, largely by the use of our WATS telephone line, and often with the cooperation of Center investigators, are highlighted each month in the familiar map, with the identified cases plotted as dots and the unidentified cases as stars. For every dot plotted there is a positive reason. An advertising plane is given as the stimulus for a UFO report only if Mr. Hendry has determined that there *was* an ad plane there at that place and at that time. On that you can depend. It is not guesswork. It is important to find out.

It has now been clearly established that at this time about 90% of the UFO *reports* we receive at the Center for UFO Studies are in reality IFOs, and are thus to be eliminated from further consideration (except by the sociologist or psychologist who may be interested in why so many people make such misidentifications and why they have the urge to report them).

You may well say, "Now that that has been established by careful checking for more than a year, why keep it up? It will probably be 90% next month again. Why beat a dead horse?" But if we don't do it, many IFOs will be accepted by others as true UFOs, and that will not help advance the cause of research in the least. It will only give ammunition to

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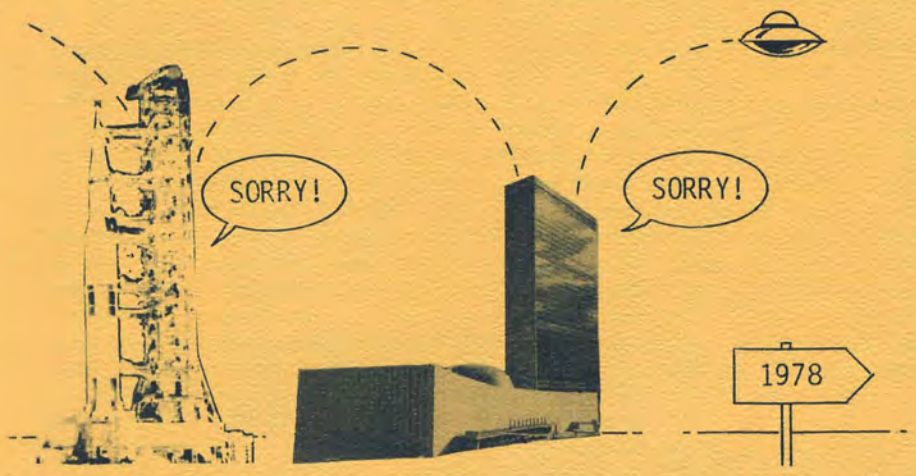
INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER
T.M.

VOL. 3, NO. 2 FEB. 1978

A MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE UFO PHENOMENON
REPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS & ANALYSES

"There is no hope of advance in science without a paradox."—Niels Bohr

UFOs 1977—THE YEAR IN REVIEW



AN INSIDE LOOK AT GRENADA'S UFO MISSION AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

TWO UFOS SELECTED FROM 51 U.S. CASES

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EDITORIAL

by Dr. J. Allen Hynek

Shortly after my last editorial was in press, NASA gave its answer to the Carter Administration—an answer clearly predicted—and for obvious reasons—in the editorial. The news media, however—including our own newspage, written the very last thing before presstime, all emphasized the negative aspects of the answer: NASA had said NO! to Carter. And indeed they had, about undertaking a full scale project. Thus they upheld the principle of the political independence of science and scientists.

But NASA did not give a complete "No"—a very important crack in the door was left open. Actually, NASA said "the door was wide open to ..."

Wide open, no, but a shut door also no. Clearly, NASA does not think that there is any tangible evidence to test, and that therefore they need not be in any way involved. But conversations with NASA and other scientists demonstrate to me that these men have not overlooked the importance of the fact that NASA is on record as being willing to test tangible UFO evidence—the "effects of the tornado" as mentioned last time. They point out that the way is now open to such tests; it is now "legal" for a NASA scientist, for instance, to test soil samples, scorched vegetation, metal specimens, "angel hair" etc. In fact, one NASA scientist feels that he is on solid ground should he undertake such tests in his laboratory. And this is the interpretation given to the positive part of the NASA answer to Carter by several other scientists too. NASA undoubtedly will not assign special funds or laboratories to this, but already existing laboratories and staff cannot refuse to test bona fide specimens. The crux of the matter is, of course, what is bona fide evidence? (cont. on pg. 7)

J. Allen Hynek

BOOK REVIEW

SPACE-TIME TRANSIENTS AND UNUSUAL EVENTS, M. Persinger & G. Lafreniere, Nelson-Hall, 1977, 267 pages.

To the layman, the idea of computer analysis carries the ring of superior analytical capabilities and the ability to see correlations which are not readily visible to the "naked eye". Classically, Fortean events have been very difficult to treat in any sort of organized fashion because of their very existence as transients. No instruments can be brought to bear since the event is over before the percipient barely has time to react. Persinger and Lafreniere have taken a collection of 6060 unusual UFO and other Fortean events and submitted them to "computer analysis" in hopes of discerning patterns in appearance, locality, time, etc.

Sounds like a good idea? Perhaps, the best comment on the methodology of the book is made by the authors themselves: "we are suspect of those scientists who practice ritual without reason . . . " The authors, alas, have fallen under the spell of assuming that no matter what is inputted to the computer, some sort of useful result is outputted. Consider the 6060 cases which are used in their statistical study: the authors assume the absolute validity of each of these events. Though they are derived strictly from media sources (and IUR readers are by now well acquainted with the distortions that can be introduced by the popular media!), these reports are strictly "thumbnail sketches" with no investigations or details available to allow the reader to decide for himself whether or not the event has actually happened as reported. Statistical correlations can not be usefully made among data of which a large percentage is so doubtful.

Furthermore, the collection mechanism utilized by the authors is so arbitrary as to make the correlations they suggest utterly meaningless. Consider the section specifically relating to UFOs; they advance 42 landing reports as their data sample. Yet, the Center for UFO Studies has accumulated over a thousand such cases. A map detailing the geographical distribution of any sample of 42 of these would drastically change for each sample selected. The reader can have no confidence that the sampling employed by the authors is sufficiently random and equally valid across the entire country. Even IUR's monthly geographical distribution maps show the evidence of a preferential vantage point. How then can we be expected to take seriously an analysis which attempts to use only 1018 cases to adequately represent the entire period from 1800 to 1977?

The book also suffers from a multitude of actual errors. Radio waves do NOT travel at 185,995.5 mi/sec despite the authors' desire to have them do so, so as to provide corroboration for their hypothesis. Comets do not appear in the constellation "Zeta", since there is no such constellation. The star Polaris did not start flashing in 1971; it has been doing so for several hundred thousand years since it is an intrinsic variable star. But, finally, the grossest error of all to ufologists: the authors attempt to draw conclusions from a proposed relation between the appearance of solar flares on August 2-7, 1972, the subsequent appearance of fireballs on August 10, 1972, and on August 19, 1972, the fact that "the U.S. began one of its largest UFO flaps". It happened in 1973, NOT 1972! —— Can one then conclude that all of their reasonings are based on such careless research? These are but a few of the errors. (cont. on pg. 3)

IN CURRENT JOURNALS

FACTS, FRAUD, AND FAIRY-TALES by John Rimmer, MUFOB, Winter 1977-8.

"Some ufologists . . . are beginning to realize that 'subjective' UFO experiences are of equal validity to the so-called 'objective' cases. They no longer see the psychological examination of witnesses as a way of sorting out the 'reliable' from the 'unreliable' witnesses, so that they can get on with the real job of studying the hard physical evidence. However this more inclusive attitude has not yet extended to the 'hoax' reports, which are still treated as a nuisance, getting in the way of serious research. Yet in many cases these hoaxes may be desperate attempts to make some sense of the overwhelming barrage of emotional, intellectual, psychic, and cultural impressions that are absorbed into the long-suffering human brain."

FOREIGN FORUM

The following sightings have all been obtained through the courtesy of Air Vice Marshall J. Salatun of the Indonesian National Aeronautics and Space Institute and are a summary of the most interesting cases which have taken place in Indonesia during the year of 1977.

INDONESIA: Arjuna Oil Field in the Java Sea, March 10, 1977. At 7:40 PM, ten crew members of two oil tankers anchored a mile apart witnessed an object the apparent size of the full moon. It was primarily dark with a red light in the middle and emitted beams of yellowish white light in several directions. Since the UFO was below the clouds, its altitude had to be 1000 feet or lower above the surface of the water. Coming from the west, it circled the off-shore oil field twice and then sped off in an easterly direction. The witnesses were impressed by the lack of noise during the five minute sighting.

INDONESIA: Jakarta, May 3, 1977. Several people in the eastern part of Jakarta were watching the sky with binoculars at 6:35 PM. Their attention was attracted by a UFO which traversed the sky in approximately one minute. The object appeared round to them and carried flashing lights of various colors (red, green, white, and blue) located in circles around the rim.

INDONESIA: Bondowoso, East Java, July 6, 1977. At 6:30 PM, a ham radio operator reported a UFO which flew from west to east in about seven minutes. The object was flat, but directly overhead, it appeared round in shape and yellowish-green in color. After having hovered for about five seconds, it began to move again and disappeared in the distance.

INDONESIA: Longitude 123° 00' 09", latitude 4° 00' 31" S., September 27, 1977. At 12:15 PM, a dredge master and four members of his crew reported a UFO which remained visible for one minute. Consisting of a cone of translucent material in which there were dark spots, the UFO emitted light from the top of the cone of violet, white and red colors. Perfectly silent, the UFO had a forward, undulating motion and a spinning motion about its vertical axis. The horizontal motion was against the prevailing wind and its altitude was estimated as 9000'.

U.S. SIGHTINGS

2 UFOS SELECTED FROM 51 CASES: Dec. 15-Jan. 14

48 reports were judged to be identifiable or inappropriate.
No reports are still under investigation.
Refer to the monthly "Profile" feature for complete evaluations.

HOW WE LEARN OF UFO'S: UFO reports are from news departments, civilian organizations and individuals all over the world, but most of our reports stem from the Center for UFO Studies' UFO Central Hotline. This is a 24-hour, toll-free telephone service for the exclusive use of law enforcement agencies, FAA agencies, planetaria and other formal channels. This gives us the chance to follow up *all* cases rapidly for first-hand information with unlimited long-distance capability. Other advantages include screening of the hoaxers. Indeed, police who patrol when others are asleep are encouraged to fill this void.

HOW WE DEFINE UFO'S: Any anomalous aerial phenomena whose appearance and/or behavior can't be ascribed to conventional objects and effects—not only by the original witnesses, but also by analysts who possess technical qualifications the original observer may lack.

NL—Nocturnal Light: distant anomalous lights seen in the night sky
DD—Daylight Discs: distant disc-like objects seen during the day
RV—Radar/Visual: UFOs seen by radar and vision simultaneously

CE I—Close Encounter of the First Kind: UFOs seen within 500 feet
CE II—Close Encounter of the Second Kind: CE I's that leave behind physical traces
CE III—Close Encounter of the Third Kind: CE I with humanoid occupants seen

HOW WE NUMBER CASES: All UFO sightings will receive a three element number which will serve as a case "name". The first numbers refer to the volume and issue number of the edition that contains the case, and the last number refers to the order it arrived (example: 1-1-7, the seventh case of the first issue).

UFOs of Limited Merit

These reports are of intermediate stature. They are UFOs in the sense that we don't know what they are, but for a variety of stated *reasons, they are not really worthy of closer scrutiny.*

CASE	TYPE	DATE	TIME	DURATION	WITNESSES	PLACE
3-2-39	NL	1-10-78	12:25 AM	1-2 min.	1+	Chicago, IL

A 31-year old paramedic was driving to pick up her policeman husband from work when her 3 year old son drew her attention to a "moving star", seen nearly overhead. When she reached her destination a few seconds later, the witness noted a silver disc-shaped object ("with teacups on the top and bottom of the saucer") as large as the full moon moving forward with a yellow-orange trail behind it as it moved. The saucer stopped, reversed direction, moved forward again and moved off behind the building next to which she was parked. The trail was seen to be visible only when it was in motion. Though she ran down the alley to reobserve the object when it reappeared, it was gone when she reached the end.

Mostly a single witness case due to the age of the son. No confirmation from O'Hare Airport or FAA. Most unusual that an object of this size and appearance over southern Chicago was not reported by others.

3-2-50	NL	1-14-78	8:30 PM	5-6 min.	6	Delavan, WI

A 44-year old man was talking with his wife, daughter and her boy-friend in his living room when he was startled to see an orange ball half the size of the full moon descend into view through a window. The family watched the sphere hover for one minute, move 10° to the north, hover, and then move off quickly to the northern horizon where it disappeared behind the trees in several seconds. The object was distinctly visible at all times as it moved off quickly to the horizon. A call to the police brought the confirmation that these antics had been independently watched by two policemen, who confirmed the motions.

The airport at Milwaukee could give no confirmation. The witness did call the police as the sighting was in progress but the only object which they noted was a meteor in the eastern sky. No other reports were received.

(cont. from pg. 2)

All of this is not to say that the book is not fun to read, if one ignores the statistical arguments. The sample cases are delightful: think of the joy of being able to pass on such gems as the fact that in 1963 in San Francisco, a coffee cup was heard to pick up and amplify signals from a local radio station, or that Ceylon in July of 1910 was invaded by millions of six inch snails, or that on June 17, 1754 Windham, Connecticut was the scene of "frog wars".

However, returning to the original purpose of the book, computers applied to statistics reflect only the assumptions and thought patterns of the programmers who feed in the data. Despite its scientific trappings, this book is a failure. The predictions and conclusions are invalid due to the insufficient numbers and quality of the original cases chosen. In general, this book represents a classic example of overanalysis.

Finally, the authors, having accumulated a series of correlations between the random unusual reports chosen for analysis, advance the hypothesis that these events are related and/or caused by large-scale solar-geophysical electromagnetic phenomena, possibly as a result of the influence of "exploding stars". No serious scientist would doubt that the solar particle and electromagnetic fields do indeed influence the Earth and possibly the life on it. However, since the correlations are invalid, so is their conclusion. The final chapters of the book represent the proverbial "house built on sand". It can not stand. Suffice it to say, read this book for the encapsulated cases.

UFOs 1977: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The year 1977 will not go down in ufological history as a banner year for unusual or prolific UFO cases. Perhaps the highlight of the year was a brief flirtation between UFOs and politics on both a national (N.A.S.A.) and an international (United Nations) level. As we have seen, both endeavors basically came to naught.

Still, in IUR's first chronological year of monitoring UFO sightings in the United States and abroad, it was a year that saw IUR investigations of 83 UFOs within the continental United States out of a total of 903 reports. Let's now take a look at the nature of these reports, and also, at some of the case and news highlights for the past year.

One note of caution: if you have tried adding up the numbers in the monthly statistics section, you will find that your numbers do not agree with those stated further on in this article. The reason for this was the creation of the "Exclusion" category in the early months of 1977. This category was created to remove the evaluations of unavailable and unreliable witnesses, inconsistent and insufficent information, non-UFOs, and reluctant witnesses. It is statistically "unfair" to include these in IFO-UFO counts, and so, the monthly statistics have been adjusted in the following counts to account for this policy change.

THE STATISTICS

Of the 903 reports received by IUR through both the Center for UFO Studies police hot-line and the private reports of investigators and the witnesses themselves, 83 remained unidentified despite the results of as complete an investigation as could be devised. Most of these were nocturnal lights and daylight discs as can be seen from the table below. Surprisingly, there were no radar-visuals at all and only one close encounter of the second kind.*

How were these UFOs distributed in location across the country? The first figure shows the distribution by type over the various states. Curiously, the UFOs show a tendency to form a more random pattern across the states as opposed to the "band" customarily shown by IFO reports which extends from the Midwest to New England and reoccurs in California (see any IUR monthly statistic map).

Do the IUR UFOs show any seasonality? Figure 2 represents the percentage of unknowns plotted by month. It would seem from the large fluctuations that there are particular months that are favored with "genuine" UFO reports. The percentage of UFO reports seemed to vary widely around the mean 9.2% of UFOs but this is likely not to be particularly significant since we are only looking at one year's worth of data.

What about the IFOs? What other

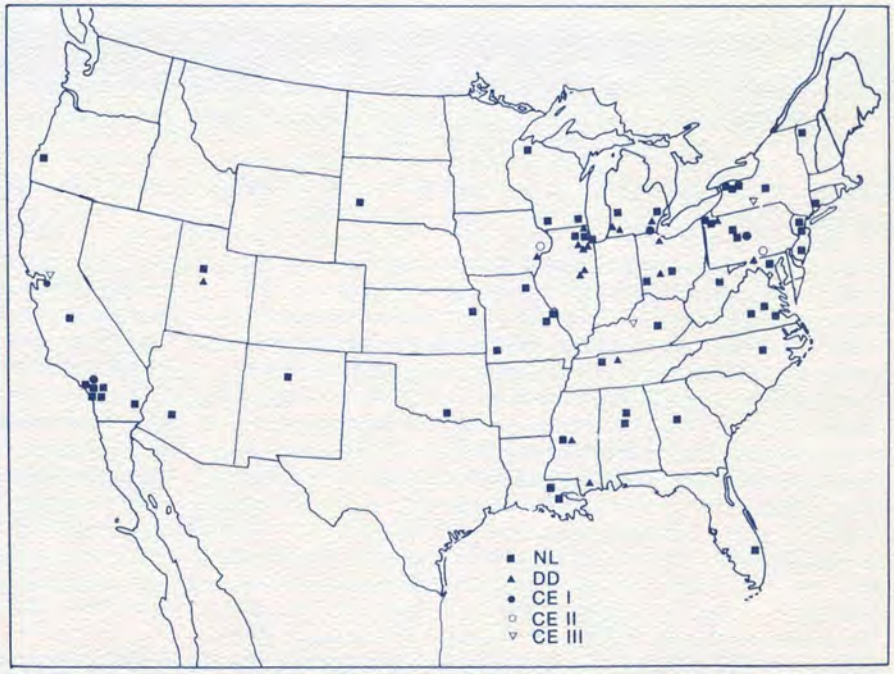


FIGURE 1—GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF UFO CASES BY TYPE

TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGHTINGS BY CATEGORY

UFOs: TOTAL—83

Nocturnal Lights	57
Daylight Discs	17
Radar-Visuals*	0
Close Encounter-1st Kind	5
Close Encounter-2nd Kind	1
Close Encounter-3rd Kind	3

IFOs: TOTAL—781

Stars & Planets	240
Ad Planes	179
Aircraft	106
Meteors	84
Helicopters	37
Balloons	29
Satellites	20
Moon	15
Re-entries	14
Prank Balloons	11
Searchlights	7
Flares	6
Kites	5
Missile Launches	5
Ground Lights	4
Birds	4
Airborne residue	2
Reflection	2
Lightning, Contrail, Mirage, Cloud, Tower, Visual Disorder, Moondog, Test Cloud	1 each

EXCLUSIONS: TOTAL—42

Non-UFO	12
Unreliable witness	13
Inconsistent testimony	9
Unavailable witness	4
Insufficient observation	3
Reluctant witness	1

TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGHTINGS: 903

It should be noted that because of the premium that IUR has placed on the examination of current cases, when reports were brought to our attention which had occurred beyond the current month of investigation, they were not included in the statistics unless the nature of the case was thought particularly valuable or provocative.

*The one radar-visual reported in Alaska is still under investigation.

UFO's 1977 = 9.2%

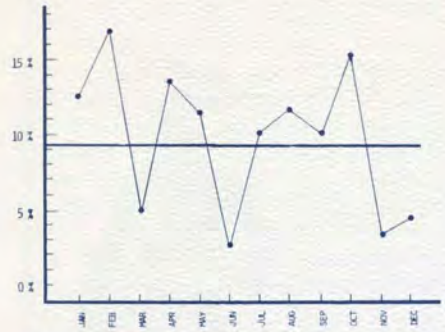


FIGURE 2—UFO PERCENTAGE BY MONTH

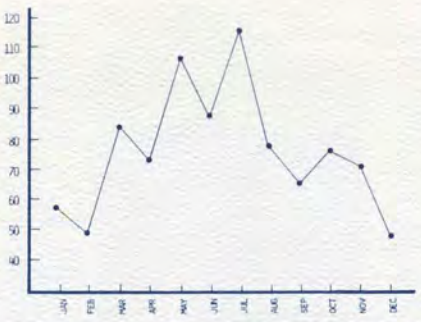


FIGURE 3—DISTRIBUTION OF ALL REPORTS (IFOs + UFOs)

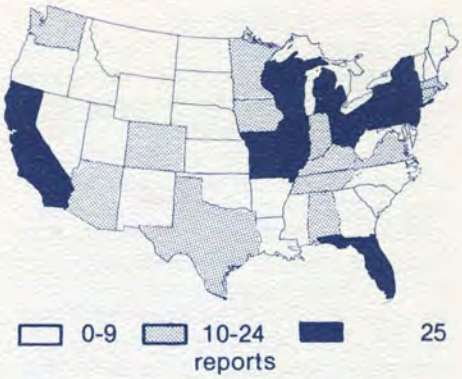


FIGURE 4- GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ALL REPORTS

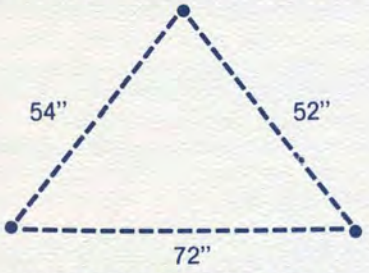
kinds of objects were sighted by witnesses and how did these vary over the year? The number of IFOs represented by each of the different categories is seen in Table 1. As in the Project Blue Book statistics (see IUR-Vol. 2, No. 1), the bulk of the IFO sightings were of stars and bright planets, 27% of the total, followed by ad planes and aircraft.

The total number of reports (both IFO and UFO) per month also closely resembled that of the Air Force Project. Figure 3 shows the same summer peak, though perhaps IUR's reports peak a month sooner than the Air Force's.

Finally, let's look at the places from which the reports came. The final figure represents the most active reporting states. Bear in mind that this figure probably does not provide a "true" representation of reports. Instead, it is highly influenced by the location of the receiving end of the reports—namely the Center for UFO Studies. That is why Illinois possesses the highest number of reports—though California is a reasonable second.† It is most likely that what is being shown here is simply the efficiency of the reporting network in these various states.

† e.g. Ground Saucer Watch, Inc.'s yearly statistics show a preponderance of reports in their home state of Arizona and virtually none in Illinois.

THE UFO CASE OF HIGH MERIT—



UNSCATHED TRIANGLE LEFT AT GATCHELLVILLE TRACE SITE

CASE 2-4-44: March 8, 1977, Gatchellville, PA. At 7:30 PM EST, eleven witnesses in six separate parties watched a red ball of fire the size of the full moon drift over their houses and fall to the ground leaving a large patch of burnt grass with an unscathed triangular area delineated by three holes at the vertices. The object was seen to be drifting for 2-5 minutes and appeared to be no more than a few hundred feet over the witnesses' houses. In the burned area, the soil was burned black to a depth of 3 inches; the holes at the vertices were 1 inch in diameter and 2¾ inches deep.

THE YEAR'S NEWS IN REVIEW

—June 24th marked the 30th anniversary of the beginning of "modern ufology". On that date, thirty years ago, private pilot Kenneth Arnold sighted nine disc-shaped objects in the state of Washington which were coined "flying saucers" by the press.

—A statement in the "Washington Whispers" segment of *U.S. News and World Report* which hinted at the release of hitherto restricted UFO information by the U.S. government, raised hopes for a while but was found to simply refer to a misunderstanding on the part of Jody Powell, the President's Press Secretary, who didn't realize that the Project Blue Book archives had already been released.

—UFOs made the floor of the United Nations when Sir Eric Gairy, the Prime Minister of Grenada, proposed that the United Nations form a special committee for the study of UFOs and psychic phenomena. This resolution was eventually withdrawn and if there are further inquiries, the matter will be brought up at the 33rd General Assembly in September, 1978.

—N.A.S.A. undertook a feasibility study to determine whether or not it should enter the arena of active UFO research. After concluding that there was no "hard evidence" which could be analyzed and that they could develop no research framework to tackle the problem, the N.A.S.A. officials decided that there would be no official investigation, but if hard evidence should turn up, they would be most willing to look into the matter.

—The French government instituted an official study of the UFO phenomenon under the directorship of Dr. Claude Poher of C.N.E.S. This group (called G.E.P.A.N.) consists of members of most of the major French scientific organizations.

—Dr. Peter Sturrock of Stanford University released the results of a survey of the American Astronomical Society members on the subject of UFOs. 53% of the astronomers indicated that they thought that the UFO problem deserves study and about 5% described UFO sightings that they had personally made.

—An executive of Ground Saucer Watch, Inc., Harvey Brody, has brought suit against the C.I.A. in order to force the release of any UFO materials that this organization

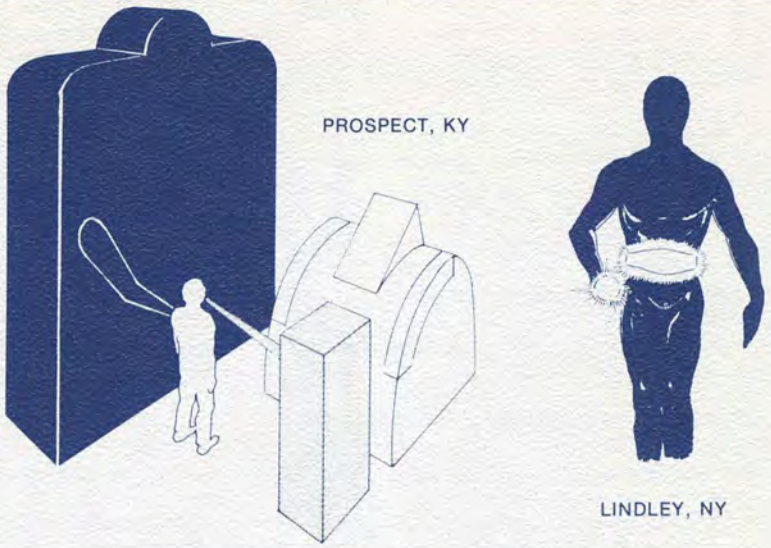
(cont. on next page)

(cont. from previous pg.)
might have. Under the Freedom of Information Act, the C.I.A. can only withhold such information if it pertains to the national security.

—Strong evidence was brought to bear that the famous "UMMO" case, which involves alleged sightings over two decades and the entire world, is a hoax. Primary evidence of a hoax was derived from the discovery that the San Jose de Valderas photograph is that of a small model and not a large flying object.

—The "First International Congress on the UFO Phenomenon" was held in Acapulco, Mexico and mostly served to point out the widely differing viewpoints of the principal workers within the field of ufology.

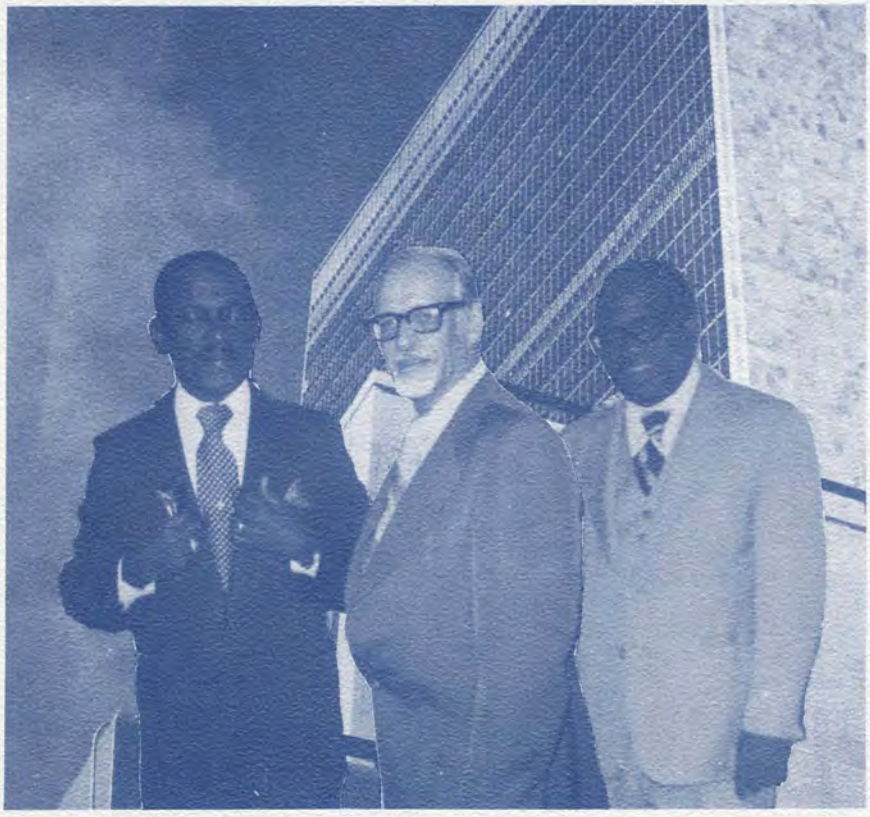
—The New Hampshire town of Wakefield was "invaded" by an object which supposedly fell through the ice into a pond and remained there, emitting radioactivity. After much media misinformation, the "object" was found to be simple shadows on the pond bottom as seen through the ice.



THE UFONAUTS OF 1977—A STRANGE BREED EVEN FOR UFOLOGY

—The town of Chester, Illinois was "attacked" by space aliens and completely destroyed, according to OFFICIAL UFO magazine, generating nationwide publicity. Chester is still alive and well, despite the new policy of OFFICIAL UFO to publish only fictional stories in its pages, disguised as truth.

INSIDE LOOK AT GRENADA'S UFO MISSION AT THE UNITED NATIONS



Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy, Len Stringfield, and Grenada Ambassador Dr. Wellington Friday—the principal characters in the United Nations UFO debates.

By Leonard H. Stringfield

Leonard Stringfield was director of CRIFO (Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects) from 1953 to 1957 and public relations director of NICAP from 1957 to 1970. He is in active contact with the major UFO research groups in the U.S. and is the author of SITUATION RED. The UFO Siege (Doubleday, 1977).

On November 14, 1977, I got word from Dr. Wellington Friday, Ambassador At Large for Grenada, that I was chosen to serve as his adviser at the United Nations where he was scheduled to propose the establishment of an agency within the United Nations framework to study UFOs.

As I now look back on my five days spent in New York with Grenada's Prime Minister and his delegation, and being witness to their dramatic efforts at the UN, I must hasten to say that my experience in playing a part in the affairs was rewarding. I certainly had the satisfaction of getting a good inside glimpse of diplomatic manuevers, especially on an issue so sensitive as that of UFOs!

The man behind Grenada's UFO thrust was Prime Minister Eric Gairy. Openly admitting he witnessed a UFO and knowing of other UFO close encounters on his island, he addressed the UN's 32nd General Assembly October 7, 1977, requesting that the UFO question be placed on the agenda for serious review and that steps be taken to establish an agency for " . . . coordinating and disseminating the results of its research."

It was prior to Gairy's October address that I first became involved as adviser. Following a meeting in New York on September 16, 1977, when I met Grenada's Ambassador to the United States, Franklin Dolland, at his mission's office, I was introduced to Dr. Friday. During a private meeting later at my hotel, Friday asked if I would submit a paper to him describing the objectives for serious UFO research. I promptly responded with a 4-page guideline which I later learned was used as the theme in the Prime Minister's address.

Shortly after my arrival in New York I got into action. Dr. Friday gave me a rough draft of his address for review and editing. Working far into the night and rising early Monday to resume, I had sharply edited the 45-page text. Parts were deleted, parts added, and statements factually corrected or rhetorically re-phrased. Friday, however, had done his homework well. He had searched UN files, exhuming old data from the 1960's when the late Secretary General U Thant had expressed his interest in the worldwide UFO problem. He had also uncovered many records showing that Major Colman Von Keviczky of ICUFON had pressed the UN in 1966 to act on the UFO question.

On November 28th, the day when Dr. Friday was scheduled to make his address at 3 p.m. in the General Assembly, the phone in his room jangled all morning. One call stood out above the others, and occurred while Ambassador Dollard and I were rushing some last minute copy changes which were to be delivered to his mission office for typing. It came from Coast Guard Commander John Feigle, a member of the U.S. delegation. In a polite manner he at first offered United States' hopeful support for Grenada's UFO stand at the UN, even though the text of Friday's address was unknown to him. Then Feigle inquired about Grenada's objectives which drew from Friday only a rhetorical response. Feigle then stated the U.S. position was based on the Condon Report. Friday, indicating some annoyance, stated that he was aware of the Condon Report, that he knew of new UFO data since the report's release in 1969 which made the Condon Report invalid, and then promised to call back. In a matter of minutes, Friday and I discussed and formulated Grenada's policy. We had hoped for US support but hopes were fading. Our decision: Stand firm!

Dr. Friday's hour-long oratory, following the Prime Minister's opening statement, was in my opinion, a moment for history. Sitting with the Grenadan staff I watched the reaction of delegates representing certain countries which I knew beforehand would be mentioned as having a part in UFO affairs. Notably, only the Communist Chinese delegate arose during the talk, and smiling inscrutably, strolled out of the assembly.

The U.S., as expected, requested time for rebuttal, but any chance for debate was cut short as the delegate from Nepal had asked for adjournment to allow time to review Friday's text. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 30. Disappointingly, I had no opportunity to open my briefcase where I had stored UFO data to offer Dr. Friday if needed in the debate.

The next two days, November 29 and 30 were focused on extensive work on the draft resolution which was scheduled for presentation at the General Assembly at 3 p.m. of November 30. The U.S. delegation was active on both days. Calls came from delegates, Commander Feigle and John Krindler. After consulting the White House, they said they could "sympathize" with Grenada's efforts but could not support the existing draft resolution. Several items were too demanding, such as the lines italicized from the text as follows: "(1) Requests the Secretary-General to consider the scope and various aspects of this item and to undertake for consideration by the 33rd session of the General Assembly, a survey of the UFO phenomenon which should include . . . (b) *the results of studies and such documentation and other data pertinent to this item as may be provided from records of representative governments,* the committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Spaces.

On Wednesday, November 30 the U.S. delegates, Feigle and Krindler, kept an appointment with Gairy for a discussion of the draft resolution. In bounds of protocol, the meeting was conducted behind closed doors.

In essence, the closed-door session was triggered by a maneuver by the British UN delegation. Having met with the U.S. team they had averred that the establishment of a UFO agency in the UN on the basis proposed by Grenada would be prohibitive in measure of cost and time. The U.S. agreed and reiterated that the terms of the draft resolution were too demanding. Once again the resolution was re-worked to a more moderate posture; however, the salient points remained intact.

The last word I had before departure from New York, December 1st, was that the U.S. was in a "supportive" mood of the draft resolution, probably knowing that given time for more diplomatic manuevers the final wording of the document would hopefully be revised more to its liking.

On December 7th, the draft resolution (with few changes) was shelved until next year's General Assembly to be convened in September 1978. This would allow the delegates of member nations to consult with their home governments for an evaluation of their own UFO status quo.

The United States got off the limb at the UN without embarrassment. Perhaps, the U.S. was hoping that by the time a crucial vote would come up in September, 1978, that Prime Minister Gairy's views might change on the UFO problem. After all, President Carter had gifted him, during a diplomatic exchange in September, 1977, with a copy of the Condon report . . .

EDITORIAL (cont. from pg. 1)

The International UFO Reporter and the Center for UFO Studies will assist investigators in bringing good evidence to the attention of NASA and in calling for appropriate tests. The NASA "crack in the door" should now make it less objectionable for *other* government laboratories to consider such tests openly; heretofore few such tests were made, but always "under the table", sandwiched in between the regular tasks of the laboratory.

So, NASA's answer may after all be a step forward. Is all "angel hair" merely spider webs? To what temperature was the soil at a "landing site" heated? Does the chemical composition of a soil sample at such a site differ from that of a control sample? WE'd really like to know!

PROFILE: DECEMBER, 1977

● —IFO ★ —UFO

Meteors	12
Aircraft	12
Stars and Planets	10
Ad Planes	5
Moon	3
Helicopter	1
Lightning	1

EXCLUSIONS

Unreliable Witness	2
Inconsistent Testimony	1

UFOs

NL	2

Total Number of Reports	49
Average per Day	1.5
Peak activity (4 cases)	12/2

Total Number of UFOs	2
Total Number of IFOs	46

UFOs: 4.2% **IFOs:** 95.8%

UFOs include 3-1-30 and 3-1-40. Verifications and complete details of these cases are on file and available on request to our readers.

Clearly, the number of cases dropped off severely during this month, as did the number of unknowns. This is in contrast to December, 1976 wherein despite the drop in the total number of cases, the percentage of UFOs still remained at the mean value of 9%, not the case this month.

COMMENTARY

THE GREAT 1978 UFO FLAP THAT FLOPPED . . . SO FAR
BY Allan Hendry

Premise: 1978 will see the next great UFO flap, artificially stimulated by the Columbia Pictures release, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind".

Who thinks so?

Phillip J. Klass made the prediction months ago. Richard Haines wanted UFO investigators to arm themselves with foresight before the deluge struck; a list of precautions was prepared by him, one of which called for the monitoring of local movie theatre attendance. The Northwestern University Sociology Department had planned to perform a formal study, stopping only when cooperation with Columbia proved impractical.

Now it's widely assumed by the press that the flap *is on*, as judged by the number of calls I get from journalists all over the country. Typical of these was a reporter from Philadelphia Inquirer, who sounded as if her article was already half-written and all she needed were some exact figures to show the *magnitude* of the increase in current sightings. That would explain why she got so exasperated when I told her there was *no* increase. None at all. In fact, the usual December-January seasonal low for total reports (well-known to IUR followers) was completely in effect! IUR is receiving about half the number of new reports it would normally be privy to in July-August.

Granted, it might be premature to judge the outcome of social reaction to the movie at this early date, but the newspapers are already trying to push it; thus, this early commentary. Furthermore, the public already has its "big chance," since Columbia distributed a quarter of a million brochures containing a UFO report form addressed back to the Center for UFO Studies, *postage-paid*. We're receiving a lot of these daily now, but the majority are of old cases (as Dr. Hynek predicted). There are even more "practical joke" responses than current sightings! The nature of all of these is far from exotic; candidates for Nocturnal Light status are the rule.

Now don't misunderstand . . . the total mail delivery to the Center/IUR *has* jumped dramatically to an average of 300 letters a day, or so. Mostly, though, these reflect a new interest in UFOs due to the movie or its publicity. In addition, there are witnesses I talk to on the phone who see fit to tell me that they have seen "CE III", but that it didn't influence them on their current sightings. Judging by the simple IFO nature of these claims, I can believe it . . . no abductions, no appliances going haywire, no missing Avengers showing up in the backyard, etc.

Anticipation that "media attention to UFOs equals more UFO sightings" is a concept that will probably linger on, despite the failure of Edward Ruppelt (1956) to locate any such relationship statistically, or more recently, Joseph Blake's demonstration that annual numbers of UFO articles (in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*) do not fluctuate logically with annual numbers of UFO reports collected by the Air Force. While it may be too early to judge, the relationship between the movie "Close Encounters" and UFO reports for 1978 may well go the same way: statistically insignificant!

those who say that *all* UFO reports are cases of mistaken identity.

So, we keep on, as costly as this process is. But there may be other things you'd like included. More feature articles? Perhaps you'd like the opinions of UFO investigators around the world about their work, about the UFO phenomenon itself—as long as it is clearly labelled as opinion. Or, you may want to learn about who is doing what about UFO research and investigation, what cases prominent UFO investigators are working on—sort of progress reports—, or some may want to gauge the effect of the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" on the kind and quality of reports received; will the movie produce a rash of IFOs or will it perhaps give people the courage to report older sightings which heretofore they would have been too embarrassed to report?

I have already given some suggestions, but I need your input: what other things should be done? Is the writing too scientific or not scientific enough? How about technical things like readability and format? The colors used?

Returning to subject matter itself: do you want articles and opinions about the use of regressive hypnosis? Do you want to hear about "abduction cases" in process of investigation, or would you rather wait until the job is done (which in some cases may take months of careful attention and follow-up)? To what extent should we even comment on the many stories we hear of the truly weird cases which involve *reports* of seemingly absurd things like teleportation, and psychic adventures which are totally untestable. Or is that skating on too thin ice?

Let's have your opinion—and by return mail, why not? Use the back of this sheet if you wish, or a separate letter. And please address them directly to me, as Editor-in-Chief. Space permitting, I'd like to print some of the more interesting returns.

J. Allen Hynek

Editor-in-Chief

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